

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated August 24, 2005, in which claim 1 was rejected and claim 2 was objected to. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 2, and has added claim 3. Accordingly, claims 1-3 are pending in this application, and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,025,156 to Ohgoda (hereinafter, "Ohgoda"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ohgoda relates to a radiation read-out apparatus with a function of making wait image-recorded stimuable phosphor sheets and erased reusable stimuable phosphor sheets. Specifically, Ohgoda is directed to the problem of efficient processing of these stimuable phosphor sheets by using a single stacker in the apparatus.

Applicant's claimed invention provides an apparatus for accessing a storage phosphor medium disposed within a CR reader. In order to particularly point out and clarify the invention, Applicant has added that the access area can be exposed to ambient light as the storage phosphor is transported along the path. The advantage of the present invention over the prior art is that if the medium becomes lodged or jammed within the reader, an operator may open or remove cover 26 of reader 10 (see, e.g., FIG. 3) to either remove the medium (i.e., screen) from the reader or make adjustments so that the screen may be returned to the cassette. Since the screen has already been scanned prior to being transported along a path to the access area, no image information is lost from the screen. Moreover, none of the components are adversely affected by an operator accessing the screen through the access area, since ambient light is shielded by a light cover. Applicant respectfully submits that since Ohgoda fails to show or suggest an access area that can be exposed to ambient light as the storage phosphor is transported along the path, claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 2 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. As suggested by the Examiner, Applicant has amended claim 2 such that it is independent from including all limitations of original claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is in condition for allowance.

Applicant has added independent claim 3, and submits that it is allowable the same reasons that claims 1 and 2 are allowable.


Summary

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this communication to Eastman Kodak Company Deposit Account No. 05-0225.

Respectfully submitted,



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